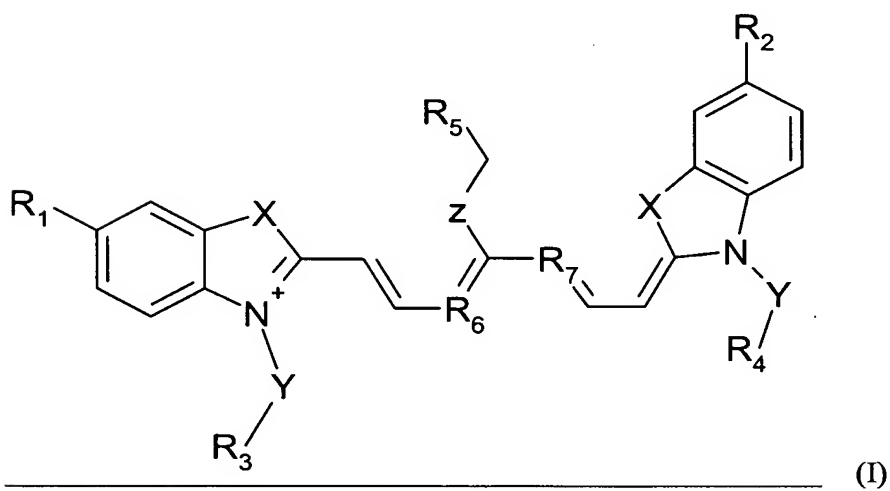
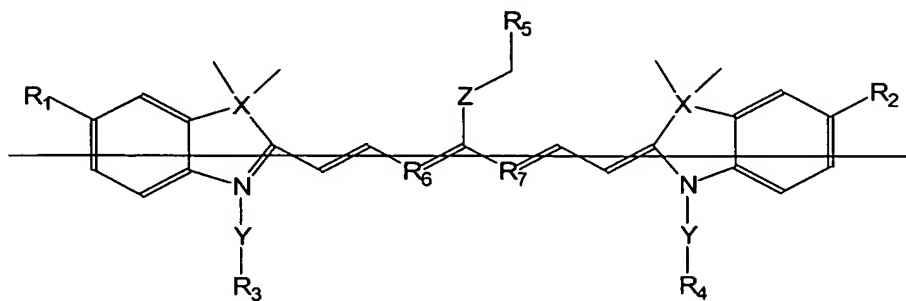


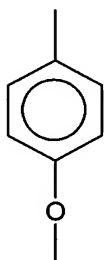
Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the formula appearing on page 4, line 2 from the bottom of the page as follows:



Please amend the paragraph starting on page 5, line 1 as follows:

X is O, S or C that is substituted in two places, whereby the substituents can be selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl and/or butyl; Y is CH₂-CH₂ or CH₂-CH₂-CH₂; Z is C₁ to C₅ alkyl, whereby the C atoms are optionally replaced ~~substituted~~ by O or S, or



Please amend the paragraph starting on page 5, line 6 from the bottom of the page as follows:

Preferred is an indotricarbocyanine dye of this invention, in which Y is CH₂-CH₂; Z is C₁ to C₅ alkyl, whereby the C atoms are optionally replaced ~~substituted~~ by O or S, and in which R₆ and R₇ are CH, and salts and solvates of this compound.